

SUMEX-AIM RESOURCE INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL USERS

National users may gain access to the facility resources through an advisory panel for a national program in Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (AIM). The AIM Advisory Group consists of members-at-large of the AI and medical communities, facility users and the Principal Investigator of SUMEX as an ex-officio member. A representative of the National Institutes of Health-Biotechnology Resources Program (NIH-BRP) serves as Executive Secretary.

Under its enabling 5-year grant, the SUMEX-AIM computing resource is allocated to qualified users without fee. This, of course, entails a careful review of the merits and priorities of proposed applications. At the direction of the Advisory Group, expenses related to communications and transportation to allow specific users to visit the facility also may be covered.

USER QUALIFICATIONS

The SUMEX-AIM facility is a community effort, not merely a machine service. Applications for membership are judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) The scientific interest and merit of the proposed research and its relevance to the health research missions of the NIH.
- 2) The congruence of research needs and goals to the AI functions of SUMEX-AIM as opposed to other computing alternatives.
- 3) The user's prospective contributions and role in the community, with respect to computer science, e.g., developing and sharing new systems or applications programs, sharing use of special hardware, etc.
- 4) The user's potential for substantive scientific cooperation with the community, e.g., to share expert knowledge in relevant scientific specialties.
- 5) The quantitative demands for specific elements of the SUMEX-AIM resource, taking account of both mean and ceiling requirements.

In many respects, this requires a different kind of information for judgment of proposals than that required for routine grant applications seeking monetary funding support. Information furnished by users also is indispensable to the SUMEX staff in conducting their planning, reporting and operational functions.

The following questionnaire encompasses the main issues concerning the Advisory Group. However, this should neither obstruct clear and imaginative presentation nor restrict format of the application. The potential user should prepare a statement in his own words using previously published material or other documents where applicable. In this respect, the questionnaire may be most useful as a checklist and reference for finding in other documentation the most cogent replies to the questions raised.

For users mounting complex and especially nonstandard systems, the decision to affiliate with SUMEX may entail a heavy investment that would be at risk if the arrangement were suddenly terminated. The Advisory Group endeavors to follow a responsible and sensitive policy along these lines--one reason for cautious deliberation; and even in the harshest contingencies, it will make every effort to facilitate graceful entry and departure of qualified users. Conversely, it must have credible information about thoughtful plans for long-term requirements including eventual alternatives to SUMEX-AIM. SUMEX-AIM is a research resource, not an operational vehicle for health care. Many programs are expected to be investigated, developed and demonstrated on SUMEX-AIM with spinoffs for practical implementation on other systems. In some cases, the size, scope and probable validation of clinical trials would preclude their being undertaken on SUMEX-AIM as now constituted. Please be as explicit as possible in your plans for such outcomes.

Applicants, therefore, should submit:

- 1) One to two-page outline of the proposal.
- 2) Response to questionnaire, cross-referenced to supporting documents where applicable.
- 3) Supporting documents.
- 4) List of submitted materials, cross-referenced.

We would welcome a draft (2 copies) of your submission for informal comment if you so desire. However, for formal consideration by the SUMEX-AIM Advisory Group, please submit 13 copies of the material requested above in final form.

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